



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 19 • May 9, 2008



Interoperability Montana Retreat Awards Addition

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

On April 24 and 25, the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project provided recognition awards to persons who have made significant contributions to the IM Project. The editor regrets that one person's name was inadvertently left out. Sally Byrd, Contracts and Procurement Officer with the Montana Dept. of Military Affairs was recognized for her Voluntary Participation and Activism on the IM Statement of Work Committee and for her procurement expertise to accomplish build out of the IM Project. The editor apologizes for this oversight.

Tri-County Interoperable Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Tri-County Interoperable Consortium (SWIP/Tri-County) meeting was conducted on May 1 at the Dive Café in Helena. Vice Chair Bill Fleiner oversaw the meeting. The minutes from the March meeting were approved as presented.

Consortium members discussed the Bull Mountain, Boulder Hill, Grassy Mountain, and Limestone communications sites and how the sites tie in to other consortia and partnership agencies within the Interoperability Montana Project. The group also discussed the methodology of coordinating requested grants with existing grants and county and state funding to provide improved consideration by the technical committee. Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, submitted site reports, and members discussed them.

The consortium has completed interim narrow banding frequency licensing. Programming and installation efforts are on track. The consortium's Assistance to Fire Fighters grant has been received at FEMA. Sally Buckles, Jefferson County DES Coordinator, reported on the Interoperability Montana Retreat April 24 and 25 in Billings.

The next meeting will be on May 28 at 10:00 am at the Department of Corrections, located behind 515 S. Sanders in Helena.

Interoperability Montana Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Finance Sub-Committee met on Monday, May 5 at the offices of Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ) in Helena. Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff and sub-committee chair John Walsh chaired the meeting.

Members reviewed a quarterly funding summary report and discussed the issue of contingency funds

to make sure that the IM Project does not become over-committed, resulting in scheduled work projects having to be delayed. In the past, some budget estimates were too low and projects were underfunded. The IMTC has now increased those estimates. The budget has \$500,000 in contingency funds.

Discussion/Information Request (DIR) 059 for a 60 kW Generac® generator and 1000-gal propane tank for the Scout Hill site in Roosevelt County was approved and funding was allocated. DIR 061 and DIR 062 were both tabled until additional cost estimates are available. DIR 061 proposes to move the schedule for trunking at Big Mountain in Flathead County from 2009 to 2008. The trunking has a funding source, but electrical work on the shelter and a new HVAC system is needed. DIR062 relates to a 200-amp service upgrade at Blacktail as well as a putting in a larger generator and an additional propane tank.

The Finance Sub-Committee will hold a work session on Tues. May 13 at 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ), 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Interoperability Montana Governance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Governance Committee (IMGC) met on Monday, May 5 in Helena. Members listened to a presentation by Jacki Frank, CPA with Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ), about audit procedures and committee responsibilities.

Glacier County Sheriff and NTIP Chair Wayne Dusterhoff addressed the group about state funding for COPS grant matching monies. This will be further addressed at the finance sub-committee meeting on May 13 and recommendations will be made at the June 2 IMPD meeting. Sheriff Walsh was asked to send a notice to all project directors letting them know about the availability of COPS grant funding for subscriber units in accordance with the IMTC Subscriber Unit Allocation Process.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to revisions to the IMPD bylaws as recommended by Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, and Cindy Mullaney, IMGC Vice Chair. Several changes were incorporated because they are better suited to an entity that will be handling millions of dollars worth of funding. Language from the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) bylaws also was incorporated.

The next IMGC meeting will be Monday, June 2 at the Dept. of Corrections Annex Building conference room, located behind 515 S. Sanders.



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 19 • May 9, 2008



Interoperability Montana Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on May 6 and began with Committee Reports. Bill Fleiner reported on finance sub-committee activities and brought the group up to date on the meeting with Senators Baucus and Tester's staff regarding a federal allocation request. Staff members responded positively, and the session helped build understanding about the IM Project. Staffers expressed particular interest in the eastern part of state and tribal nation involvement. Project directors were encouraged to explain to Montana delegation members the importance of the IM Project. Bill also reminded project directors that letters of support are needed.

Suzanne Severin, Anderson ZurMuehlen, distributed copies of the quarterly financial report. Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, distributed copies of the "Assumed Business Name" form that was filed with the Secretary of State on April 29. The IM Project's EIN number also has been received. Copies of revised bylaws also were distributed for a 30-day comment period.

Bill announced that the new chair for the staffing sub-committee is George Gupton. Bill then reviewed the staffing committee recommendation to hire an interim executive director who will act on behalf of the IMPD Chair and coordinate with various committees and agencies that are currently staffing the IM Project. A motion was passed to commence work on the final job description and begin the hiring process for an interim executive officer. This individual will serve at the pleasure of the IM Project Directors.

Cindy Mullaney reported that the Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee is beginning work on Phase II development. Bill also stated that the RFP for Project Management has been delayed, but it should be released this month. Bob McWilliams reported on the last IM Technical Committee (IMTC) meeting, and Sub-Committee reports were presented. Bob McWilliams also said that an IMTC working group developed recommendations for this year's proposed Dept. of Homeland Security FY08 Budget, which is estimated at \$3.1 million. The group recommended construction of the backbone from Culbertson to Billings with infrastructure upgrades and microwave. This information was used by DES to write up investment justifications.

Mark Adams provided the April 25 status report and addressed problems related to procurement

delays and outstanding issues. Action items are being worked through with critical ones given priority. This updated information can now be viewed on the interactive map on the PSSB site, <http://interop.mt.gov>.

During the Public Comment period, Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol, reported that Kenwood portable radios have been shown to meet the IM Subscriber Unit Criteria and work on the Lewis and Clark trunked radio system.

The next IMPD meeting will be Tuesday, June 3, at the State Capitol in Helena.

Upcoming Meetings

May 13

IM Finance Sub-Committee Work Session
Helena • 8:30 am – 3:00 pm • Anderson & ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.

May 14 (Please Note Date Change)

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am • Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

May 14

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Ennis • 10:00 am • First Madison Valley Bank, 213 East Main

May 15

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am • Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

May 15

Saskatchewan Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest
Group Regional Mtg. • Saskatoon • 9:00 a.m. to noon (CT)
Radisson Hotel, 405 20th Street East
CITIGForum@cprc.org - Send an e-mail if interested.

May 19

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am • Room 317, State Capitol

May 20

Western Interoperability Comm. Consortium (WICC)
Polson • 10:00 am
DES Offices, Lake County Courthouse, 106 4th Ave. E.

May 21

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

May 21

Jefferson County Radio Users & Stakeholders, 6:45 - 8:45 pm
Boulder • Jefferson County District Courtroom, 2nd floor

May 22

Big Sky 11 Consortium
Billings • 10:00 am
Yellowstone County Fire Station 1 (EOC), 2305 8th Ave N.

May 28

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

June 2

Northern Tier (NTIP)
Havre • 9:00 am • Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.